

New Hampshire Building Entry Walkway Map Redesign

Project Location and Background

The New Hampshire Building at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts hosts nearly one million visitors each year during the annual 17-day exposition. Built in 1930, the building is a large open exhibition hall with a brick and granite exterior. The New Hampshire Building is one of six state buildings on the fairgrounds, each of which is intended to be a replica of the state's original capitol building.

Exhibits in the building feature New Hampshire tourism, agriculture, commerce, recreation, history and culture. The building and immediate property is owned by the state of New Hampshire and is operated by the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food.

Site Description

The front entry to the building features a lawn and garden landscape with a wide concrete walkway. The walkway currently displays an imbedded composite stone map of New Hampshire. The 10 New Hampshire counties are outlined and metal plates identifying selected towns are attached to the map.

Art/Craftwork Desired

There is a need to replace the New Hampshire map imbedded in the front entry walkway. The current map is beginning to show wear and some public safety hazards have developed. It is the department's desire to replace the existing map with a map made of granite. At a minimum, the new map will feature the ten counties and the county names will be identified so the viewer can see. Concord will be properly located and identified as the state capitol. Other unique New Hampshire items may be featured, such as the state bird, mountain ranges, etc., as proposed by the artist. The map is to be a major focal point for visitors entering the New Hampshire Building.

Location for Artwork

The location of this project is in the front entryway of the New Hampshire Building. The current map is approximately 15 feet long by 8 feet wide, imbedded into a portion of four 4 x 4 concrete sidewalk sections. A square area the size of 16 feet x 16 feet, including surrounding concrete, is available for this project. Appropriate concrete work must be done to provide a stable base for the new map and return the walkway to a uniform state after the map is in place.

The artist will be responsible for the design and oversight of the fabrication and installation of the new granite map and surrounding concrete work. The department of Agriculture, Markets & Food will contract directly for the concrete work, but the artist/designer must assume oversight of the concrete installation so that it is compatible with the artistic design and installation.

The project must take into consideration the concentrated, heavy traffic that the map will receive during the exposition, as well as exposure to winter freezing and other weather conditions. There is also occasional maintenance vehicle traffic over the site. Public safety is of major importance as well as aesthetics.

On-site Informational Meeting

An on-site informational meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2004, 10 a.m. at the New Hampshire Building, West Springfield, MA. Building Manager, Gail McWilliam Jellie will provide a tour of the site and share New Hampshire's Eastern States Exposition participation philosophy as well as share the desires of this project.

Because of the remote location, all those who are planning to attend this session should pre-register by calling Gail McWilliam Jellie, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food, 271-3788, or email at gmcwilliam@agr.state.nh.us no later than April 2, 2004. Attendance at this session is not required. Travel directions are at the end of this RFP.

Project Budget

A maximum of \$8,000 is available for this project. An expense breakdown for the proposed project must be a component of the proposal, including design, delivery and installation of the final art to the New Hampshire Building and the oversight of any concrete work surrounding the map to match the rest of the adjacent walkway concrete.

Insurance

Proof of liability insurance coverage is required for the stonework installation, including time in transit from the production site to the New Hampshire Building and while on-site during installation.

To Enter

Artists must submit the following materials:

- 1) 2-dimensional graphic representation of preliminary site-specific proposal;
- 2) estimated budget;
- 3) support materials (resume, exhibition catalogs, references, etc.).

A brief artist's statement (not to exceed one typewritten page) explaining the artist's concept is optional. Finalists may be asked to refine their proposals or present their plans to committees. The committee reserves the right to make a decision that is in the best interests of the project and to adjust the process as needed.

Artists are requested to provide a graphic representation of the proposed work on illustration board (minimum size 9" x 12"; maximum size 18" x 24"). If drawing paper is used, it must be mounted on cardboard. Any 2-dimensional medium is allowed. The Department will honor rights of artists to their own design.

The artist should also present detail on the installation of the map. Safety of the viewing public is of major concern, as well as durability in regards to traffic and weather exposure.

Return of Proposals

Proposals submitted with stamped, self-addressed return envelopes (SASE's) will be returned to artists immediately following the Selection Committee's decisions. Proposals without SASE's will be retained at the NH Dept. of Agriculture Markets & Food office for 30 days after selections have been made. The Department will not be responsible for materials left after 30 days. The Department will honor the rights of artists to their own designs.

Design Fees

No design fees will be paid for preliminary sketches or designs.

Timeline

Friday, April 2, 2004	Pre-registration for Artists information meeting at the New Hampshire Building, Eastern States Exposition Grounds.
Monday, April 5, 2004	Artists information meeting at the New Hampshire Building, Eastern States Exposition Grounds .
Tuesday, April 20, 2004	Postmark Deadline. Proposals Due.
May 1, 2004	Contracts issued.

August 1, 2004

Stone art delivered to the New Hampshire Building and installed to allow time for any necessary drying/curing of the materials before the exposition opens on September 17, 2004.

For more information contact:

Gail McWilliam Jellie, Director
Division of Agricultural Development
NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food
PO Box 2042
Concord, NH 03302-2042
Tel. 271-3788
Email: gmcwilliam@agr.state.nh.us

Send proposals to:

Mail: same as above
Deliver: 25 Capitol St., Concord, NH 03301

Directions to the New Hampshire Building from I 91:

Take exit 13B to Route 5 (also known as Riverdale St. You can only make a right turn at the light at the end of the ramp). You will proceed through two lights on Rte. 5. Just past the second light and before the third light, bear right to Elm St. and travel through downtown W. Springfield. You will go straight through one light. At the next intersection bear right onto Park St. (there is a separate right turning lane so you don't have to go to the light). Make your way to the left lane on Park St. as you will soon be making a left turn.

On park St., you will go straight through one light and at the next light turn left and go under the overpass (**12 foot clearance**)*. Follow this street to the end. Turn left at the light onto Memorial Avenue. You will be entering Memorial Avenue just above the Gate 1 entrance to the Big E. Travel down Memorial Avenue to Gate 2 (on the right), the Storrowton Tavern entrance. Tell the gate attendant you are going to a meeting at the New Hampshire Building. The New Hampshire Building will be the first building on your right after the gate and across the intersection. New Hampshire Building telephone number is 413-205-5018.